

W6OTX

W6ARA

PAARA NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 76, NUMBER 9, September 2025

K6OTA

K6YQT

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

The Friendliest Club Around

Celebrating 88 years as an *active* amateur radio club—Since 1937<http://www.paara.org/>

Volunteer Monitor Program

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH

Riley Hollingsworth was first licensed in 1961 as KN4ZDH. He administered the FCC's enforcement program in the Amateur Radio Service for 10 years before retiring in 2008. Since then, he has served in various positions at ARRL and since 2019 has administered the new ARRL/FCC Volunteer Monitor program, a new phase of FCC cooperation and enforcement in the Amateur Service. He will speak about his experiences, and specifically the Volunteer Monitor program and how it contributes to the goal of ensuring that Amateur Radio remains an important part of the American communications infrastructure into the future!

**This meeting will be a
Hybrid Meeting
Zoom and In Person**

Time: Sept 5, 2025 07:00 PM Pacific Time
Please check <https://www.paara.org> for
Zoom Details

Upcoming Events

Sept 5 Oct 3 Nov 7	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM to ~9:30PM Zoom and In Person Meeting.
Sept 17 Oct 15 Nov 19	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome! Zoom Meeting, eMail President for details.



President's Corner

Wow. What a great day at the USS Hornet! We had a pretty good turnout for our field trip on August 23rd. Many thanks to Geoff and David who showed us around the radio room and various other locations on the ship. While we weren't touring the ship, some of us were able to make contacts from the radio room on the USS Hornet, which was very cool. The Hornet is an incredible part of history that continues to amaze and educate visi-

*(President — Continued on page 2)*

Question
of the
MONTH

Questions about the USS Hornet:

1. What voltage does the ship run on?
2. What does it mean if a wire bundle is painted red?
3. Who piloted the F-8 Crusader in the first supersonic crossing of the continental U.S.?
4. From what material is the flight deck primarily constructed?
5. What is the current callsign in use on the USS Hornet? What was the ship's military callsign?

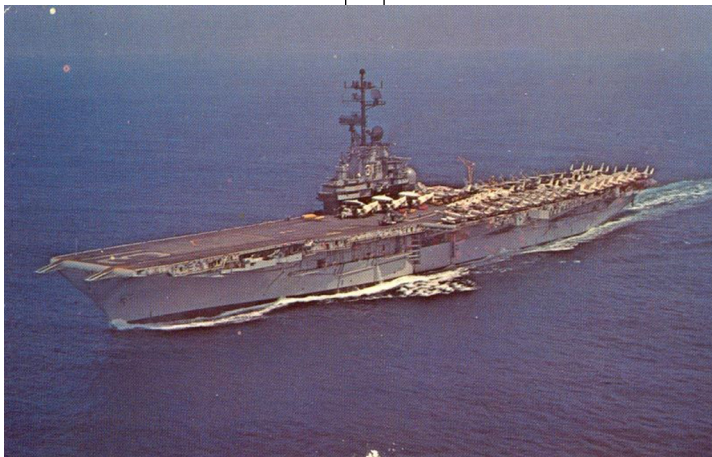
Shipboard Cannon Recoil

By: Gary Barnes, K16HIG

After high school, I joined the Navy. After boot camp and electronics school, I was assigned to my ship, the "USS Bon Homme Richard, CVA-31." This was a World War II aircraft carrier. It was put into service in 1943.

When the ship was built it had eight, 5-inch 38 cannons on the sides of the ship and two, 3-inch 50 cannons on the fantail. The first number is the diameter of the projectile, and the second number is the length of the barrel divided by the diameter of the projectile. So, a 5-inch, 38 cannon has a barrel length of 190 inches or 15-feet, 10-inches long.

There is a guy on the right side of the cannon's barrel who can move the cannon either left or right. The guy on the left side of the cannon's barrel can move the barrel either up or down. The guy on the left side of the cannon can also fire the cannon or the cannon can be fired electrically by the fire control radar equipment. More people are needed to unload and reload the cannon.



USS Bon Homme Richard, CVA-31

One day they were going to test fire the ship's cannons. These cannons can fire a projectile about 25 miles. I wanted to take a picture of the cannon firing with my 35-millimeter film camera.

The cannons were below the flight deck. I picked a spot where one of the cannons were before and I sat down on the flight deck with my feet over the edge of the flight deck. I set my camera to (1/1000) second shutter speed. I was hoping this would be fast enough so my movement would not show in the picture.

I aimed the camera at the end of the cannon's barrel. I had to wait for a while before the cannon was fired. When the cannon was fired, I found myself on my back looking up into the sky. I checked my camera, found I had taken a picture, but I did not know of what.

I mailed the film to Kodak, in Palo Alto, California, to be developed. I received the film back in about three weeks. The picture I took had the projectile at about 2 feet from the end of the barrel with orange flame around it. I lost the picture before I got out of the Navy.

September PAARA in the Park

- When: September 13th 2025
- Where: Rengstorff Park, Mountain View (Group Picnic Area, White)
- Time: 10:00am - 5:00pm

Everyone is invited! Please join us for a new PAARA in the Park event, this time at Rengstorff Park, Mountain View.

Loads of fun, people of all ages to socialize with, lots of hams there to answer questions, etc. Come sit and schmooze, or try getting on the air, bring your own radio, find the hidden transmitters, try morse code, or send memes on SSTV.

Free lunch and drinks provided by the club!

Optionally, you can sign up for the soldering activity project. (See details and sign up for the project at <https://paara.org/events.html>.)

(President — Continued from page 1)

tors today. If you couldn't join us this time around, I hope you get a chance to visit another time. I've been there multiple times, and every time I go, I learn something new. There are a few select photos from the trip in this edition of PAARAgaphs, and many more on the paara.org web site for members to enjoy.

As we get toward the end of summer, there are a few upcoming events to keep an eye on. Our next PAARA in the Park event is coming up soon on September 13th at Rengstorff Park in Mountain View. Look for more information elsewhere

(Continued on page 3)

(President — Continued from page 2)

in PAARAgaphs, as well as paara.org, which has maps of the park, and links to sign up for the soldering project. This will be our last PAARA in the Park event this year, so I hope you can find time to come join us for lunch, make some contacts, build or observe the projects, and generally just hang out spending time with good friends.

The last electronics flea market of the year will be the next day on Sunday, September 14th at West Valley College. Come out to support this month's sponsor, SCCARA, and pick up some items for your own winter projects – you know, it won't be too long, and we'll be presenting homebrew projects again. Get started on yours early!

Lastly, Pacificon is coming up on October 10th-12th at the San Ramon Marriott. Online registration is open through October 1st, but hotel rooms tend to sell out pretty early. If you are thinking about booking a room, I'd recommend doing that soon. PAARA will again be operating a special event station at Pacificon in the hotel courtyard. In addition to enjoying the event itself including talks, seminars, vendors, etc., we'd love for you to come by and make some contacts and/or help run the station. Mikko, AB6RF, will provide more information about PAARA operations at Pacificon during the September meeting.

Finally, I noticed recently that a new ARRL book has just been released: "Stealth Antennas for Ham Radio". Steve Ford, WB8IMY, kicks off the collection with a discussion of safe, effective, and ethical stealth operation and walks through tried-and-true pointers for dealing with noise sources and making the most of compromise antennas. The book includes 28 unobtrusive stealth antennas including flagpole and vertical antennas, loop and slot antennas, disguised and novelty antennas, and low-profile wire antennas. It looks like a fun read. It should be available at retailers soon but can be ordered on the ARRL online store at a special price for ARRL members. If you don't jump to get one now, consider putting it on your holiday list for the end of the year!

I hope to see you at the next meeting on September 5th, either IRL or on Zoom! If you're there in person, please join us after the meeting for pizza at Mountain Mike's across the parking lot. We'd love for you to join us!

73, Bob KN6YGN

Get on the air to keep the airwaves alive!

August 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Attending were President Bob Ridenour KN6YGN, Secretary Ric Hulett N6AJS, Treasurer Margaret Cooper K6WEK, Directors Darryl Presley KI6LDM, Sorin Constantinescu KN6YUH, Doug Teter KG6LWE. Also present were Clark Martin KK6ISP and Mikko Sannala AB6RF. A quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm

Officer Reports:

• President's Report (Bob):

We need to update ARRL affiliated club information by October 2025. Coordinating with Ric regarding the ability to update the club's information on the ARRL site.

• Secretary's Report (Ric):

We have gained some new members over the last few months: Welcome to Patricia KO6FYB, Ingrid KO6KAK, Kenn N4NTJ, John KO6FRP, Tim KO6GLU and Phiroze KD5YIA

Remember that PAARA memberships expire at the end of the calendar year. It is a good time for you to renew by PayPal (see the website), in person, or by mail at PO Box 911, Menlo Park CA 94026. Dues are a bargain at \$25.00 per year!

• Treasurer's Report (Margaret):

Everything is up to date with the State tax filings, and we are up to date with the Charitable Organization registration.

We will need to review and update the club's Capital Assets list.

• VP / Program Chair Report (Rob):

1. USS Hornet: Only 6 people signed the attendance form. We don't know how many will show up.
2. December Dream To Reality: Should we continue to have Elecraft back? If so, which product should we purchase for the raffle and what feature do we add? (item for future meetings)
3. I am hoping to take a truck and trailer load of SK and donated items to the next EFM, September 14. I would like to hear from

(Minutes — Continued on page 5)

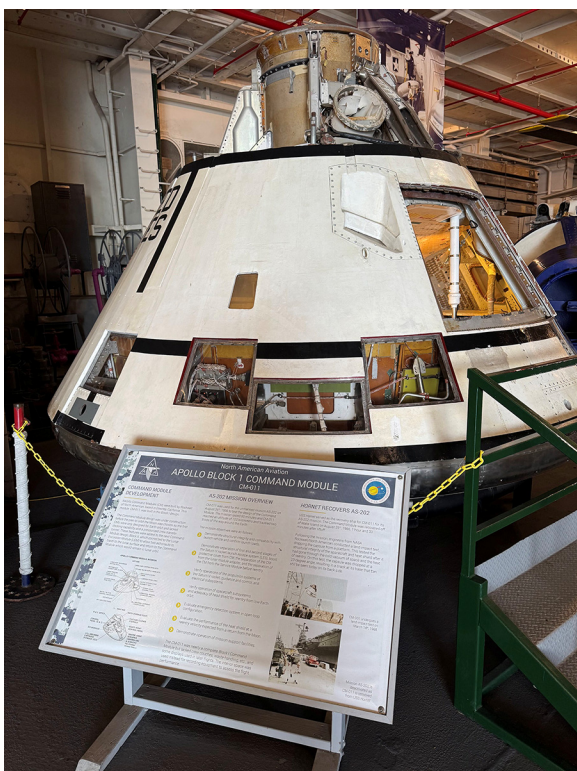
USS Hornet Field Trip



Geoff, K6ERA, of the HARC gives us a tour of the radio room and equipment.



Antennas on and around the ship's island.



Apollo command module used during unmanned test mission and recovered by USS Hornet.



Modern communication – paper messages delivered by pneumatic tubes.



The admiral's quarters are pretty nice – for the 1970s!

(Minutes — Continued from page 3)

anyone that wants to help unpack and sell in the early AM.

Standing Items:

- PAARA members: We always need more stories for our famous newsletter, PAARAGraphs! Please draft an article (even a short one) and submit it to your editor, at paaragraphs@paara.org Stories with photos are even better!
 - Gary (KI6HIG) submitted a story for September that is related to our visit to the USS Hornet.
 - Andy (KR6DD) says he's going to write a story for an upcoming issue.

• Education Committee [Darryl]

September question of the month: Possible question(s) related to our USS Hornet visit.

September PAARA in the Park activity: Saturday September 13 at Rengstorff Park in Mountain View.

Sorin will publish an online signup and payment on the website.

We need to confirm that Rob is on for lunch prep.

• Field Trip to USS Hornet [Rob]

Date is Saturday, August 23th

• IT Subcommittee Updates [Sorin]

We agreed to post information about PAARA's

radio loaner program on the website.

• PAARAGraphs Advertising [Walt]

Micro Center, Central Computer...Bob will follow up in person at the store.

Old Business

• New computer purchase:

All board members approved (via email) purchase of 5x new Lenovo V15 computers for a total of \$2000.

Unfortunately, the vendor no longer has any of the agreed models in stock.

Bob is researching other similar options. Will re-submit to the board when a new configuration is found.

New Business

Mikko AB6RF recommends that we operate a 30 m CW station at Pacificon this year. 80 meters has not been productive of QSO's, and this would give us a dedicated CW chair.

The board voted to approve \$119 (plus contingency) for a bandpass filter.

Doug KG6LWE notes that the tower trailer tires are failing from old age.

The board voted to approve \$560 (plus contingency) to replace those tires.

We will also check the tires on the box trailer.

- Club meeting location at Cubberly Community Center.

Update on bathroom access in the meeting room: We will have access to another restroom for future meetings.

The City of Palo Alto is in the process of developing a master plan to update the Cubberly Community Center site. Current expectation is that the plan will be completed by December 2025. Public meetings are currently happening to gather public feedback.

The board should keep up to date on any city plans, in case we have to relocate the club meeting site (not until 2027).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ric Hulett N6AJS



August Raffle Winners (left to right):

Clark (KK6ISP), Bob (KN6YGN), Ben (KN6UBF), Doug for Dona (KI6DAR), John (N6YU)

PAARA



5th *Intellitron TA-1317
17ft Stainless Steel
Telescopic Antenna
3/8-24*

4th *Bluetooth-Compatible
Musical Tesla Coil,
Touchable Artificial
Lightning Spark Gap
Arc*



3rd *USB Tester 4-28V 7A
LCD USB A&C Volt-
age Current Power Tester Multimeter,
Fast Charge Detection Trigger Capacity
Ripple Measurement, PD2.0/PD3.0,
QC2.0/QC3.0*



3rd Prize



2nd *Bucket Boss - Super
Roll, Tool Bags - Original
Series, Brown.*

1st *OneTigris MOLLE
Pouch, Tactical Admin
Pouch Belt EDC
Tool Organizer Zip-
pered Utility Waist
Pack 7.5"x5"x2".*



Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

President	Bob Ridenour, KN6YGN	650-575-4528
	kn6ygn@paara.org	
Vice President	Rob Fenn, KC6TYD	650-888-9060
	kc6tyd@paara.org	
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	n6ajs@paara.org	
Treasurer	Margaret Cooper, K6WEK	
	k6wek@paara.org	

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Director ('24-'25)	Sorin Constantinescu, KN6YUH,	
	kn6yuh@paara.org	
Director ('25-'26)	Walt Gyger, K6WGY	408-921-5901
	k6wgy@paara.org	
Director ('25)	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-743-7892
	kg6lwe@paara.org	
Director ('25)	Darryl Presley, KI6LDM	650 255-2454
	ki6ldm@paara.org	

Appointed Positions

Membership	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
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Database	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	n6ajs@paara.org	
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	KN6YUH	
Property Manager	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	
Badge Coordinator	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-743-7892
	kg6lwe@paara.org	
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	kc6tyd@paara.org	
Field Day Coordinator	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-743-7892
ASVARO Rep	Clark Martin, KK6ISP	
	kk6isp@sonic.net	
Webmasters	webmaster@paara.org	
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	ch@murgatroid.com	
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Speaker Coordinator	Rob Fenn, kc6tyd	650-888-9060

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Technical Tips	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	

VE Exams

De Anza Park, Sunnyvale, 2nd Saturday 10:30 am each month except November and December. See website for details and exceptions: <http://amateur-radio.org>

Electronics Flea Market (EFM)

Sponsorship: Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations (ASVARO). The Electronics Flea Market is held at West Valley College, 14000 Fruitvale Ave, Saratoga.

Website: <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

PAARA — Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Meets 1st Friday 7:00pm each month at Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center; Net 145.230 - PL 100Hz Mondays at 8:30. See website at <http://www.paara.org>. For more information. contact: Joel Wilhite KD6W, kd6w@arri.net, 650-325-8239

FARS — Foothills Amateur Radio Society

Meets 4th Friday each month at 7:00pm at Covington School, Los Altos.

Website: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org>

NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:00pm each month, Repeater for member info 147.360. Contact president@ncdxc.org. Website: <http://ncdxc.org>. YouTube content: "The Northern California DX Club Official Channel". Cohost of the International DX Convention.

The 50MHz & Up Group of Northern California

This organization specializes in vhf + wak signal and microwave activities. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Time is usually 5pm for in person meetings, and 7pm for Zoom only meetings. In person meetings are held Sports Basement, 1177 Kern Ave, Sunnyvale. Always check the website, <http://50MhzandUp.org>, for correct information. Zoom information is also there.

San Mateo Radio Club W6UQ.ORG

Meets, 3rd Friday, January through November. Tuesdays & Thursdays, [Directed] Net, 7pm, N6ZX 145.370Hz, -600KHz, PL107.2Hz

Contact: SanMateoRadioClub@gmail.com, Website: <http://W6UQ.org/calendar>

SPECS

Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System users Group

Meets each Monday 7:30pm and 8:00pm.

See: <https://specsnet.org/monday-night-net> for more info.

Contact: <https://www.specsnet.org/contact> or board@specsnet.org

SCARES

South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month, Belmont EOC, Belmont City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont CA 94002. Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings. Contact: President Gary D. Aden, K6GDA 650-743-1265 (D), 650-595-5590 (N)

Web: <http://k6mpn.org> E-mail: pres@k6mpn.org

SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl

Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 10M (28.385) 8PM Thur.

Meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.

ARRL/VEC license testing contact 408-507-4698

SVECS — Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates AA6BT repeater (146.115 MHz+)

Website: <http://www.svecs.net> or contact: Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

WVARA — West Valley Amateur Radio Association

W6PIY six-meter repeater on 52.58MHz. Normally, six-meters is linked with 147 and 223, while 441 and 1286 repeaters are linked.

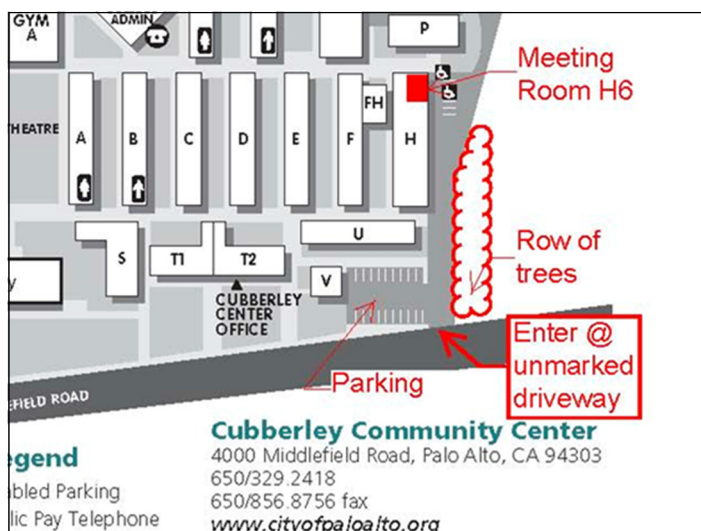
VHF: 52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss UHF: 441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss
147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss

Meetings are 2nd Wednesday of every month except July, August and December.

Website: <http://wvara.org>, Contact: info@wvara.org

(Please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor)

This space is available



**Meeting Location — Middlefield Road
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Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park California 94026-0911

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month,
7:00pm at the Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at
8:30pm, on the 145.230 –600 MHz repeater, PL 100Hz.

Membership in PAARA is \$25.00 per calendar year,
which includes one subscription to PAARAgaphs
\$6 for each additional family member (no newsletter).

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PAARA Weekly Radio Net

Info and Swap Session
every Monday evening at 8:30pm
on the N6NFI 145.230 MHz repeater

Week Control Operator

1 st	Doug - KG6LWE
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE
3 rd	Ric - N6AJS
4 th	Rob - KC6TYD
5 th	Rob - KC6TYD

If you're interested in trying out at Net Control, Con-
tact Doug, KG6LWE. It's good practice, and lots
o' fun! Give it a try.

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 The cost for a badge is \$30.00.

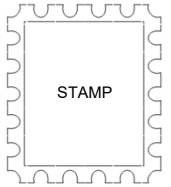
PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

PAARAgaphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). **All ad rates listed are per issue.**

1. Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).
 2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$14.00-quarter page, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue.
 These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association. The PAARAgaphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interest of the Association.
 All fees payable in advance by the year with "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads. **Give payment and copy to Walt Gyger, K6WGY.**

PAARAgaphs — September 2025

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FT-710 Aess | HF/50MHz 100W SDR Transceiver

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FT-891 | HF-50 MHz All Mode Mobile Transceiver

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FT-3185RASP | Heavy-Duty 85W 2M FM Transceiver

- Massive HeatSink Ensures Reliable 85W RF Power • Super-DX Function Increases Receiver Sensitivity & Weak Signal Reception • 221 Memory Channels • Large 5-Chance Alpha-Numeric Display



FTM-150RASP | 2M/430MHz FM True Dual Band Xciv

- Dual Receivers Showing V-U, U-U, V-U, U-U Operator • 55W VHF & 50W UHF • Heavy Duty Real Sink w/Universal RF Connection Conductor • Front & Rear Body Speaker for 6W High Quality Audio



FTM-510DRASP C&F/N/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band Xciv

- New Super-DX & ACP Inducto Digital Signal Processor Unit • True Dual Band Receiver (V-U/U-U, U-U/U-U) • C&F/N C&F/N Digital D-D Dual Receiver • 2.4" High-Res Full-Color Touch-Pane Display • Wireless Operation Capability with Optional Bluetooth® Header



FT-60R | VHF/UHF Rugged Dual Band

- Over 1000 Memory Channels • Wide Bank Receiver Coverage • High Power Output 5 Watts • High LCD Display • NOAA Severe Weather Alert with Alert Scan



FT-70DR C&F/N/FM 144/430MHz Xciv

- System Fusion Compatible • Large Front Speaker delivers 700 mW of Loud Audio Output • Automatic Mode Select: detects C&F/N or FM Audio and Switches Accordingly • Up to 1,105 Channel Memory Capacity • External DC Jack for DC Supply and Battery Charging



FT-5DR C&F/N/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band

- High-Res Full-Color Touch Screen TFT LCD Display • Easy Hands-Free Operation w/Built-in Bluetooth® Unit • Built-in High Precision SPS Antenna • 1200/800bps APRS Data Communications • Supports Simultaneous C&F/N Digital • Micro SD Card Slot



FT-65R | 144/430 MHz Transceiver

- Compact Commercial Grade Rugged Design • Large Front Speaker Delivers 1W of Powerful Clear Audio • 5 Watts of Portable RF Power With-in a compact Body • 3.5-Hour Rapid Charger Included • Large White LED Flashlight, Alarm and Quick Home Channel Access



VX-6R | VHF/UHF Dual Band Hand-Held

- Big-Radio Features in a Compact Package • Wide-Band Receiver Coverage for Catching All the Action • 900-Channel 24-Bank Memory System • Outdoor-Ready Features including Waterproof Rating • Smart Screen Automatic 51-Channel Scanning/Locking System



RETAIL LOCATIONS - Store hours 10:00AM - 5:30PM - Closed Sunday

- PHONE - Toll-free phone hours 8:30AM - 5:30PM
- ONLINE - www.hamradio.com
- FAX - All store locations
- MAIL - All store locations

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